

Humanities West presents

Bada Shanren: A Ming Prince in the Qing Dynasty

Co-sponsored by
the Asian Art Museum and
the Society for Asian Art



Friday evening and Saturday
5 – 6 October 1990
Trustees' Auditorium
Asian Art Museum, San Francisco

Explore the imagery, history, and art of seventeenth century China in a series of lectures and performances presented by Humanities West, the Society for Asian Art, and the Asian Art Museum of San Francisco, to accompany the Museum's exhibition: "Master of the Lotus Garden: The Life and Art of Bada Shanren." The exhibition features an impressive array of paintings from Asian, European and North American collections and will run from 22 August through 28 October 1990.

Founded in 1983, **Humanities West** presents programs that are designed to enlighten and entertain general audiences through performances, lectures, and discussions, offering a rare combination of the fine arts, social history, music, politics, and philosophy of a given era. For further information about **Humanities West**, phone (415) 387-8780.

Illustrations:

Cover Small Bird on a Branch

Inside Flowering Plum

Facing Page Mynah Birds, Old Tree and Rock

From the collection of The Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art,
Kansas City, Missouri



Bada Shanren: A Ming Prince in the Qing Dynasty

Moderated by James Cahill, UC Berkeley
Trustees' Auditorium, Asian Art Museum,
San Francisco

He was a prince of the old Ming Dynasty, a renegade monk who burned his Buddhist robes. This defiant, impoverished fugitive became one of the most enigmatic and important artists of seventeenth-century China, fusing elements of Chinese tradition into an eccentric blend of calligraphic verse and haunting painted images whose impact lasted well into the twentieth century. Journey back in time through this series of lectures, performances, and theatrical events, to meet Bada Shanren, prince and artist under the conquering Qing Dynasty.

Friday evening, 5 October 1990

8:00 pm to 11:00 pm

Doors open at 7:30 pm

Lecture

**A Fragmented Universe: The Cultural
Consequences of the Manchu Conquest**

Jonathan D. Spence, Yale University

As the old Ming Dynasty crumbled under the combined onslaught of social and economic forces and the armies of the invading Manchus, the Qing Dynasty emerged as the Chinese frantically sought to redefine their patterns of intellectual and artistic life. Jonathan D. Spence places Bada Shanren and his art in the rich historical context of the period.

Performance

Bada's era comes to life through readings and musical performances from the *The Palace of Eternal Life*, a play by Bada's artistic contemporary Hong Shen. Renowned singer Hua Wenyi joins Henry Chang and Daniel Chen for this authentically costumed presentation.

Reception

The evening's festivities will conclude with a reception featuring sweet and savory Chinese delights.

Saturday, 6 October 1990

10:00 am to 5:00 pm

Doors open at 9:30 am

There will be a 1½ hour lunch break at midday.

Lecture

Master of the Lotus Garden: The Art and Life of Bada Shanren (1626–1705)

Richard Barnhart, Yale University

Drawing upon the sources of Bada Shanren's imagery in the Confucian, Buddhist, and Taoist traditions, Richard Barnhart explores the nature of Bada's life as he chose to embody it in art. Professor Barnhart illustrates this lecture with slides culled from the Asian Art Museum's special Bada exhibition, organized by the Yale University Art Gallery and co-curated by Barnhart.

Lecture

Bada Shanren: Traditional Iconoclast and Riddler of the Past

Eugene Eoyang, Indiana University

Eugene Eoyang presents Bada Shanren's eclectic and eccentric poetry, a product of traditional Chinese countertradition. Bada's use of the past to denounce the present is a discourse traditionally associated in China with the archetypic characters: the monk, the drunken poet and the curmudgeonly painter.

Lecture

Buddhism in the Qing Dynasty: Cultural Adaptation and Reform Movements

Lewis Lancaster, UC Berkeley

The Manchu conquest and establishment of the Qing Dynasty propelled religion in new directions and forced Buddhism to try to hold its own as a "modern religion" with Christianity and Western science. Lewis Lancaster discusses the Qing period Buddhist reform which prompted Bada Shanren to feel himself released from his vows.

Lecture

Theatre and Politics in the Times of Bada Shanren

Lindy Li Mark, CSU Hayward

Lindy Li Mark examines Bada Shanren's artistic contemporaries including Hong Shen, whose musical drama *The Palace of Eternal Life* earned him popular fame and political exile.

